

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A chewing gum ~~characterized in that it is coated by at least one layer, this~~ said layer comprising a coating material selected from the group consisting of slightly water-soluble calcium salt and/or salts and composites thereof, wherein the slightly water-soluble calcium salt having has a particle size less than 1000 nm.
2. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in of claim 1, characterized in that wherein~~ the calcium salt is selected from the group consisting of fluoroapatite, carbonate-containing nonstoichiometric apatite, hydroxyapatite and fluorine-doped hydroxyapatite.
3. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in of claim 2, characterized in that wherein~~ the slightly water-soluble calcium salt has a particle size of 5 to 300 nm.
4. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum of claim 1, wherein ~~as claimed in of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the slightly water-soluble calcium salt is present in the form of rod-shaped crystals.
5. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum of claim 1, wherein ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ the coating layer comprises 0.001 to 5% by weight of said coating material, ~~in particular 0.01 to 2% by weight, calcium salt and/or composites thereof.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ of claim 1, wherein the coating layer comprises a composite of comprising calcium salt and a protein component.

7. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in of~~ claim 6, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the protein component is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, caseine or and hydrolyzates thereof; ~~in particular gelatin.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum wherein ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the calcium salt and/or composites thereof are said~~ coating material is coated by one or more surface-modification agents.

9. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~ wherein at least one coating layer is a dragee-coated layer.

10. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claim 1~~ claims 1 to 9, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one sugar ~~being sugar-containing.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in of~~ claim 10, wherein at least one of the chewing gum ~~and/or and~~ the coating layer ~~comprising comprises~~, as a sweetener, at least one of sucrose, invert liquid sugar, invert sugar syrup, glucose, glucose syrup, polydextrose, tagatose, trehalose, trehalulose, maltose, lactose, fructose, leucrose, palatinose, condensed palatinose, hydrogenated condensed palatinose, ~~or a mixture and mixtures~~ thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in of~~ claim ~~10 or 11~~ wherein at least one of the chewing gum ~~and/or and~~ the coating layer ~~comprising comprises~~, as an additional sweetener, at least one of fructooligosaccharides, lactitol, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, erythritol, 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS), 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,1-GPS), 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) ~~or a mixture and mixtures~~ thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the chewing gum ~~being~~ is substantially sugar-free.

14. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 13, wherein the chewing gum and the coating layer ~~comprising~~ comprise, as a sweetener, at least one of fructooligosaccharides, lactitol, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, erythritol, 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS), 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,1-GPS), 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) ~~or a mixture and mixtures~~ thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 12 or 14, wherein the ~~mixture being~~ mixture is selected from the group consisting of an equimolar or virtually equimolar mixture of 1,6-GPS and 1,1-GPM (isomalt), a mixture of 1,6-GPS, 1,1-GPS and 1,1-GPM, a 1,6-GPS-enriched mixture of 1,6-GPS and 1,1-GPM having a 1,6-GPS content of 57% by weight to 99% by weight and a 1,1-GPM content of 43% by weight to 1% by weight, a 1,1-GPM-enriched mixture of 1,6-GPS and 1,1-GPM having a 1,6-GPS content of 1% by weight to 43% by weight and a 1,1-GPM content of 57% by weight to 99% by weight, and a syrup consisting of a mixture of hydrogenated starch hydrolyzate syrup and isomalt syrup or isomalt powder, the dry matter of the syrup consisting of 7-52% (weight/weight) 1,6-GPS, 24.5-52% (weight/weight) 1,1-GPM, 0-52% (weight/weight) 1,1-GPS, 0-13% (weight/weight) sorbitol, 2.8-13.8% (weight/weight) maltitol, 1.5-4.2% (weight/weight) maltotriitol and 3.0-13.5% (weight/weight) higher polyols.

16. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum of claim 1, wherein ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, at least one of~~ the chewing gum ~~and/or~~ and the coating layer ~~additionally comprising~~ comprises one or more intense sweeteners.

17. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 16, wherein the intense sweetener ~~being~~ is selected from the group consisting of cyclamate, saccharin, aspartame,

glycyrrhizin, neohesperidin dihydrochalcone, stevioside, thaumatin, monellin, acesulfame, alitame, sucralose, ~~or a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof.

18. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 9 to 17, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising at least from 2 to about 100 dragee-coated layers ~~are present~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each said dragee-coated layer comprises ~~the individual layers have~~ the same sweetener(s).

20. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 18, ~~characterized in that the individual layers comprise~~ wherein each said dragee-coated sweetener layer comprises ~~a different~~ sweeteners sweetener.

21. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 18 to 20, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein each said individual dragee-coated layer is comprised ~~layers comprise the same~~ of the same calcium salt, ~~and/or the same composites thereof~~ or a combination of the same calcium salt and the same composites.

22. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 18 to 21, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein each said individual dragee-coated layer is comprised of a ~~layers comprise~~ different calcium salt, a salts ~~and/or different composites~~ composite thereof ~~or a combination of a different calcium salt and a different composite~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum of claim 1, further comprising at least one ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that it additionally comprises~~ fluoride ~~salts~~ salt.

24. (Currently Amended) The chewing gum of claim 1, further comprising at least one material selected from the group consisting of as claimed in one of the preceding claims, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ flavorings, fillers ~~and/or~~ and further aids.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a the chewing gum ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 24 claim 1, which comprises said method comprising~~ producing a chewing gum core and coating the chewing gum core with at least one layer which comprises at least one of a slightly water-soluble calcium salt and/or and a composite thereof, wherein the slightly water-soluble calcium salt ~~having~~ has a particle size less than 1000 nm.

26. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 25, wherein the chewing gum core ~~being is~~ coated, ~~by means of~~ by at least one hard dragee-coating step, with ~~the said~~ layer comprising at least one of the calcium salt and/or and a composite thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, wherein the hard dragee-coating step ~~comprising comprises~~ applying a solution or suspension which comprises at least one sweetener and at least one of the calcium salt and/or a and the composite thereof, and drying the ~~applied~~ solution or suspension.

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 25, wherein the chewing gum core ~~being is~~ coated, by means of at least one soft dragee-coating step, with the layer comprising at least one of the calcium salt and/or and the composite thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 28, wherein the soft dragee-coating step ~~comprising comprises~~ applying a solution or suspension which comprises at least one sweetener, and then dusting the applied solution or suspension with a sweetener powder.

30. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 28 or 29, wherein the applied solution or suspension ~~comprising~~ comprises at least a portion of the total amount of the coating material compound of at least one of the calcium salt and/or and composites thereof ~~or a part thereof~~.

31. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 28 or 29, wherein the sweetener powder ~~comprising~~ comprises at least a portion of the total amount of the ~~calcium~~ coating material comprised of at least one of the calcium salt ~~and/or and~~ composites thereof ~~or a part thereof~~.

32. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims 25 to 31~~, ~~the~~ of claim 26, wherein hard dragee-coating steps or soft dragee-coating steps ~~being~~ are repeated several times.

33. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 25 to 32, wherein the calcium salt ~~being~~ is selected from the group consisting of fluoroapatite, carbonate-containing nonstoichiometric apatite, hydroxyapatite and fluorine-doped hydroxyapatite.

34. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 25 to 33, wherein the calcium salt ~~having~~ has a particle size of 5 to 300 nm.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims~~ of claim 25 to 34, wherein the coating layer ~~comprising~~ comprises 0.001 to 5% by weight, ~~preferably 0.01 to 2% by weight~~, of the at least one of a calcium salt ~~and/or and~~ a composite thereof.

36. (Canceled)

37. (New) A method for improving dental hygiene in a subject in need thereof, which comprises chewing, by said subject, of the chewing gum of claim 1.

38. (New) A method for mineralizing the tooth enamel of a subject in need thereof, which comprises chewing, by said subject, of the chewing gum of claim 1.

39. (New) A method for mineralizing the dentine of a subject in need thereof, which comprises chewing, by said subject, of the chewing gum of claim 1.

40. (New) The chewing gum of claim 5, wherein the coating layer comprises 0.01 to 2% by weight of said coating material.

41. (New) The chewing gum of claim 7, wherein the protein component is gelatin.

42. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the coating layer comprises 0.01 to 2% by weight of the at least one of a calcium salt and a composite thereof.